

MARVEL
PG 45 486

STRACZYNSKI
ROMITA JR
HANNA

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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words
JOHN ROMITA Jr.
pictures
SCOTT HANNA
inks
DAN KEMP
colors
RS & COMICRAFT's
JIMMY BI
letters

Until the Stars Turn Cold

JOHN
MIESEGAES
assistant
editor
AXEL
ALONSO
editor
JOE
QUESADA
chief
BILL
JEMAS
president

--with reports
that bystanders caught
in the middle of the fight
between Spider-Man and his
opponents, one of whom has
been identified as Doctor
Octopus, were able to
escape shortly before the
hotel collapsed.

LAPD SWAT units
and helicopters are searching
the area looking for Doctor
Octopus and the man who
may either have been an
accomplice or who may also
have been fighting Doctor
Octopus for reasons
not yet known.

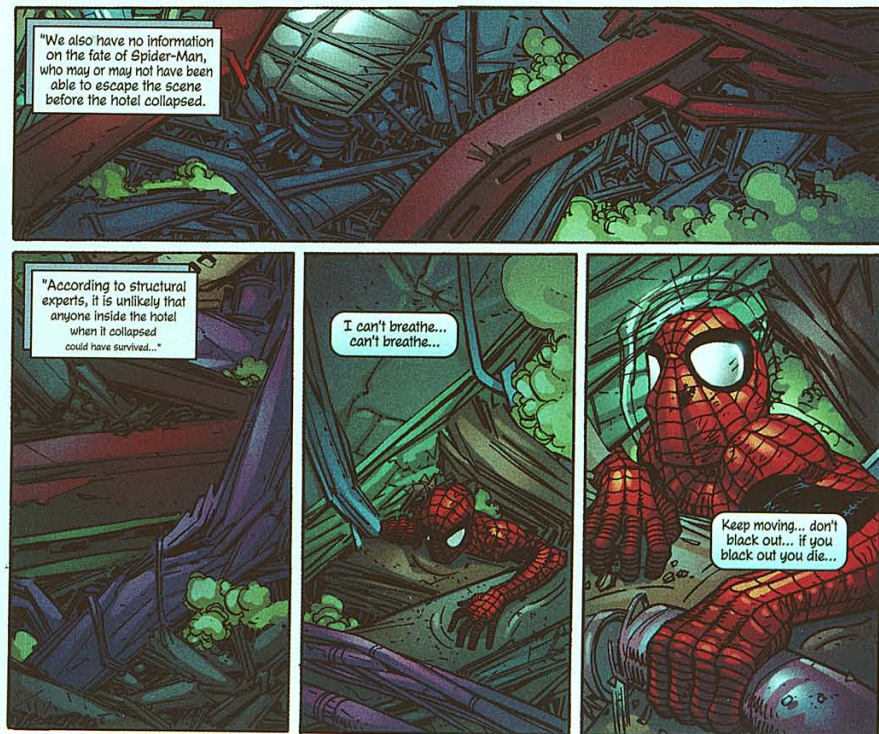


"We also have no information
on the fate of Spider-Man,
who may or may not have been
able to escape the scene
before the hotel collapsed.

"According to structural
experts, it is unlikely that
anyone inside the hotel
when it collapsed
could have survived..."

I can't breathe...
can't breathe...

Keep moving... don't
black out... if you
black out you die...



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...one of these pipes has to have air... has to go somewhere...

Nothing...



...nothing...



Hands keep shifting as I push the debris aside... and I realize I'm shaking... shock's setting in... keep moving, Peter, damn it, keep moving...



Got it. Not a lot of air, but it'll do...



...for a little while.

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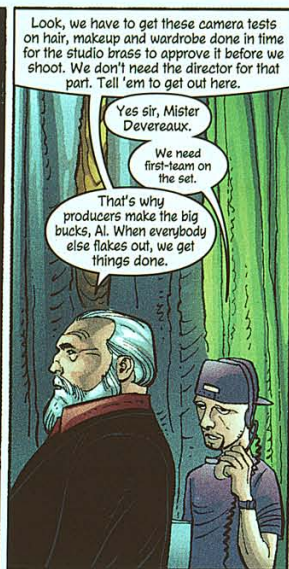


Amazing what five million dollars worth of lumber, paint and chrome can buy these days, isn't it, Al?

Yessir.

Any word from the director?

No sir. He's caught in traffic. Front gale's talking about some kind of problem up the road at the hotel --



Look, we have to get these camera tests on hair, makeup and wardrobe done in time for the studio brass to approve it before we shoot. We don't need the director for that part. Tell 'em to get out here.

Yes sir, Mister Devereaux.

We need first-team on the set.

That's why producers make the big bucks, Al. When everybody else flakes out, we get things done.



Hey, Rick, how's it going?

Fine, Mr. Devereaux. Have you lost weight? You look great.

Thanks. So Mary Jane, you've met your love interest?

Yes, I --

Great, that's great, now --



Excuse me, but I thought there was supposed to be a closed set for these tests --

It's just a skeleton crew, M.J. I promise if anyone here sees anything he hasn't seen before, I'll shoot it personally.

I understand, but --

Time's wasting, so let's get to it.

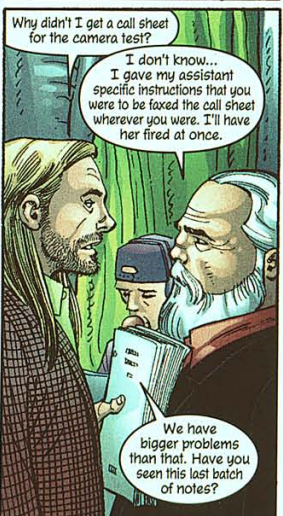


Mr. Devereaux --

Oh, crud...

What?

It's the writer, Fettes Grey. I gave the office specific instructions that he wasn't invited --



Why didn't I get a call sheet for the camera test?

I don't know... I gave my assistant specific instructions that you were to be faxed the call sheet wherever you were. I'll have her fired at once.

We have bigger problems than that. Have you seen this last batch of notes?



This isn't the best time to --



They don't like Lobster-Man's origin. They said it was stupid and improbable and not *deep* enough. What the hell does *that* mean?

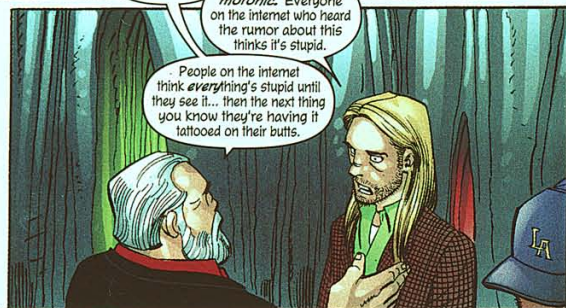


How was he created?

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Look, Fettes... radiation is *passee*. It is *so* last-century. We have to move on, create new myths for a new audience. Besides, if it's a Lobster God rather than a one-time-only accident we can have all *kinds* of sequels... Lobster-Boy and Lobster-Girl and the Evil Lobster-Man, you name it.



I can't stay here... the debris keeps shifting... collapsing... it's only a matter of time before everything around me... everything including me... gets flattened under a few hundred thousand tons of wreckage.

And I can't try to leave... because one wrong move and this all comes down around me... it means leaving my supply of air behind at some point... not a big deal if I'm only under ten feet of debris... but if it's twenty, or thirty...

...or forty... or more.

I'll never make it before I run out of air. I can't try it.

Except -- I remember now -- as the place came down...

Doc Ock and the new guy... Carlyle... they were headed for the studio, headed for hostages, headed for --

Mary Jane. Aunt May.

Have to try.

Have to.

Have --

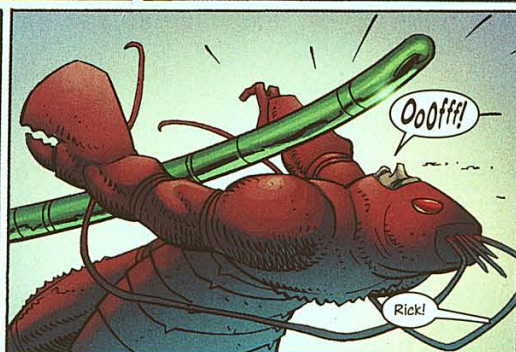
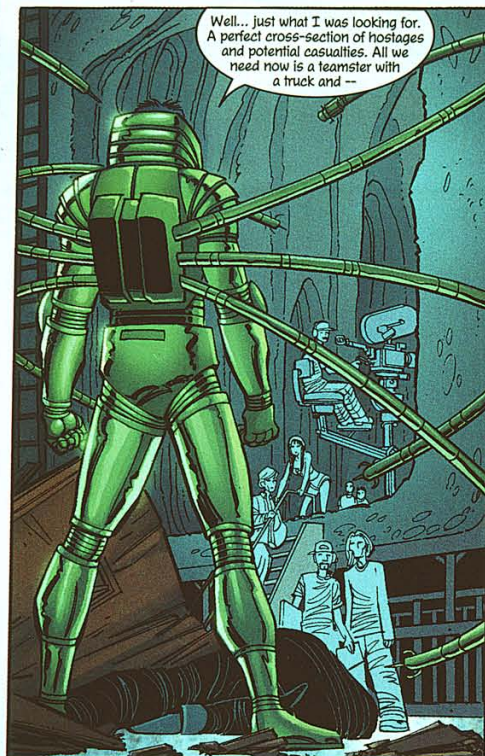
--to --

--try.



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I don't know how far I've dug... how far I have to go... but I can't rest, can't stop now --



...uh-oh... end of my life-line...

Have to hope it got me close enough to the surface, or else --



No. Don't think about that part. Think about May. And MJ.

One last, deep breath.

And... go.



Can't breathe... can't stop... can't breathe... can't stop...



One last push. One last...



If this doesn't work... I love you, MJ. I love you, Aunt May.

Goodbye.



Go.



...go...



...god...

...lungs on fire... keep going... come on, damn you, Peter, keep going.



Push.



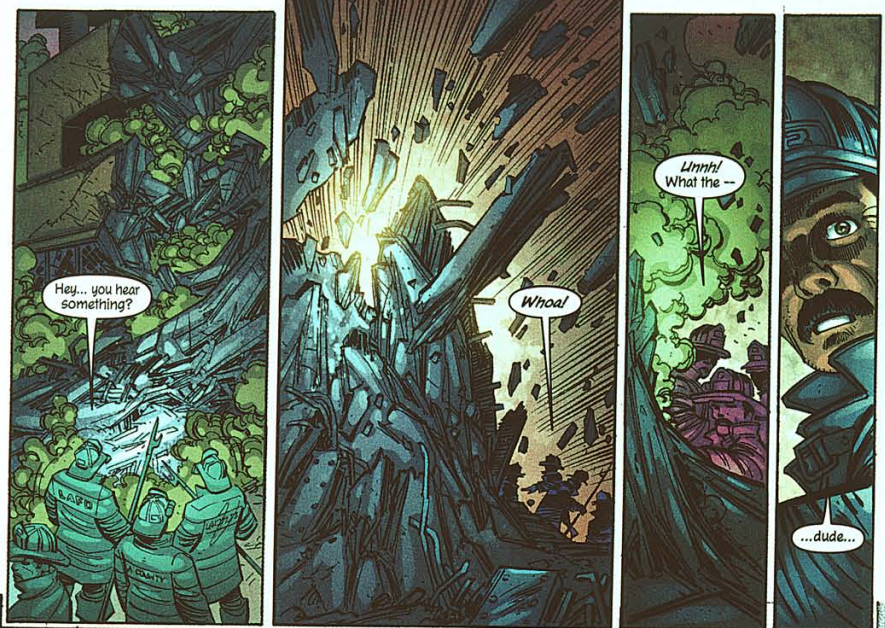
Push.

Damn you... don't you dare give up... not now... when they need you... push! Come on, Peter! Push! Push!

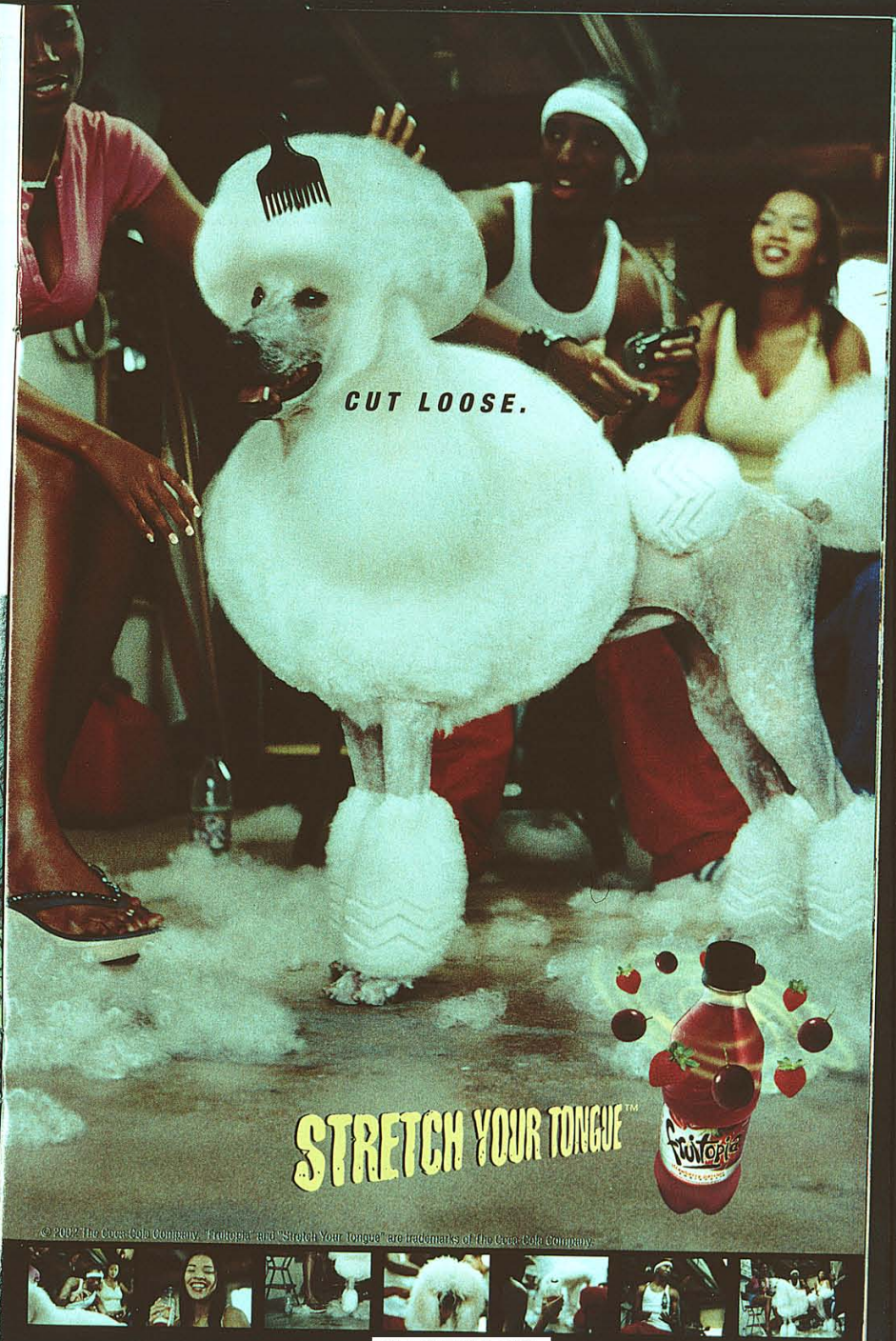


Push!

Hkkkkk... hnhkkkk...



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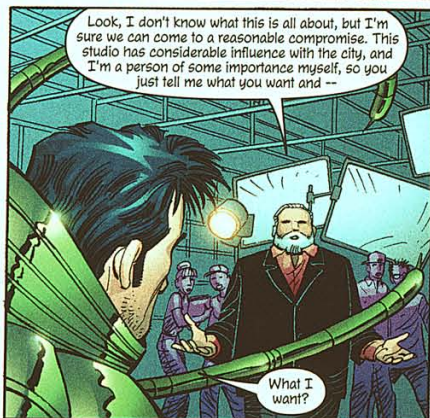
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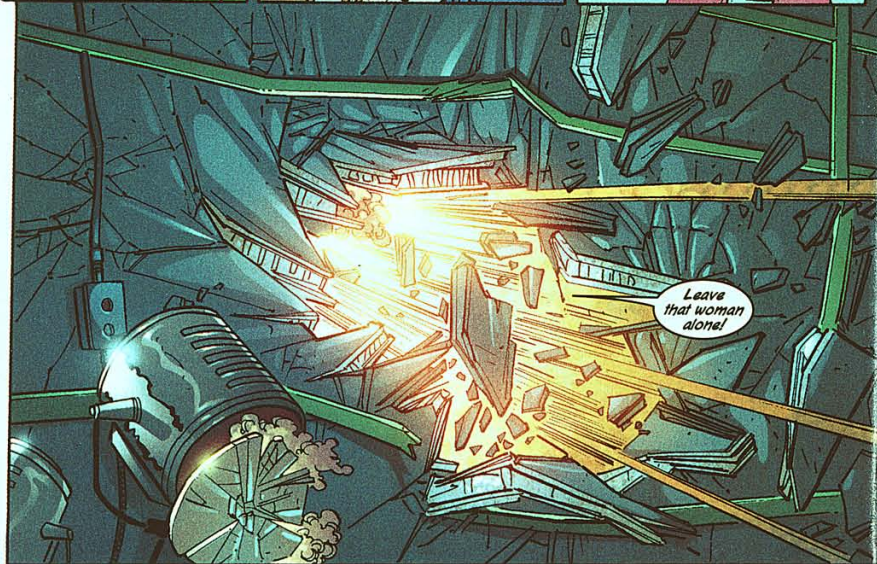
abc family

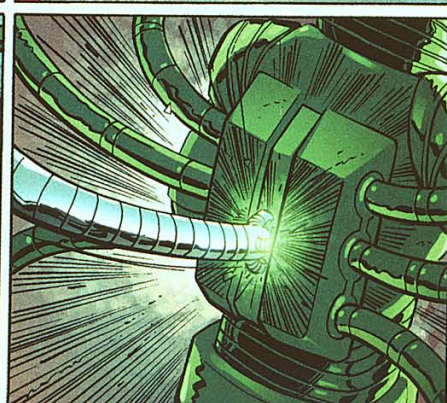
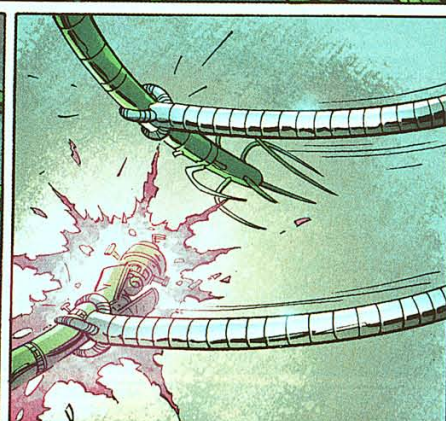
HOME OF

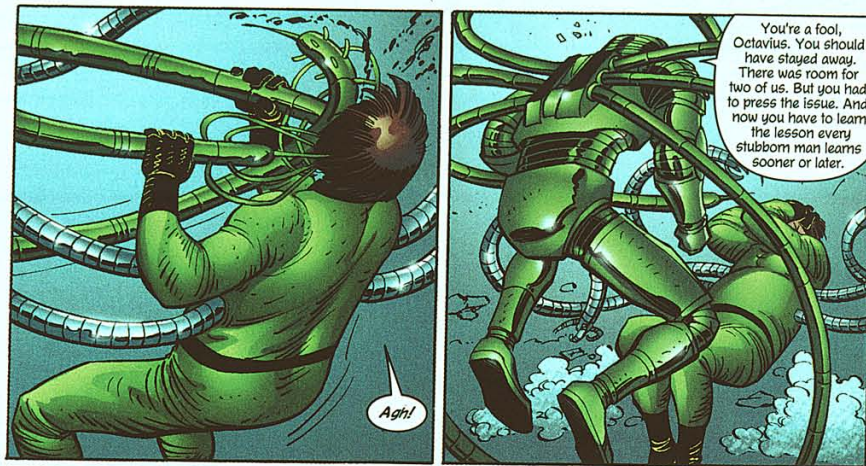


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You're a fool, Octavius. You should have stayed away. There was room for two of us. But you had to press the issue. And now you have to learn the lesson every stubborn man learns sooner or later.



Thanks for pointing out the obvious.



Which would include pretty much anybody else shopping at the Sharper Image these days.



Yes...But I... think you should stay under here for a while. It's...it's safer.

I catch MJ keeping Aunt May away, where she can't see what shape I'm in, and where she's safe.



POLLUTION AND PARADISE DON'T MIX.



It's up to Mario, his water pack and you to make things less toxic and

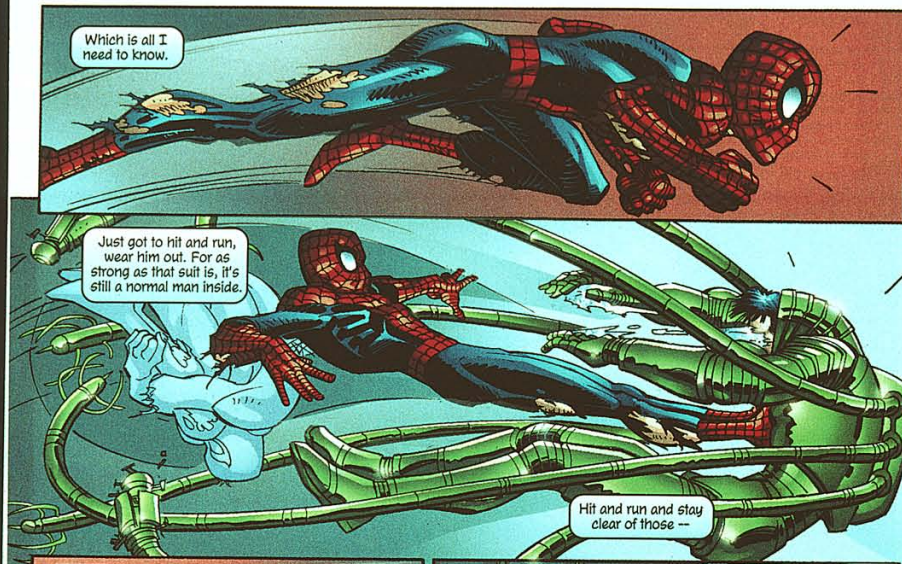


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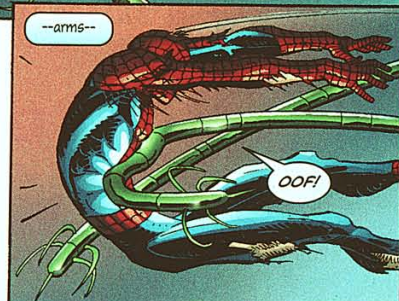
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Which is all I need to know.

Just got to hit and run, wear him out. For as strong as that suit is, it's still a normal man inside.

Hit and run and stay clear of those --



--arms--

DOOF!



I think he cracked a rib.



Can't let that slow me down... can't.



...his shell...

What?

...I made a small crack... just behind...



...maybe you can still take him out.

You're helping me?

No... I'm hurting him.

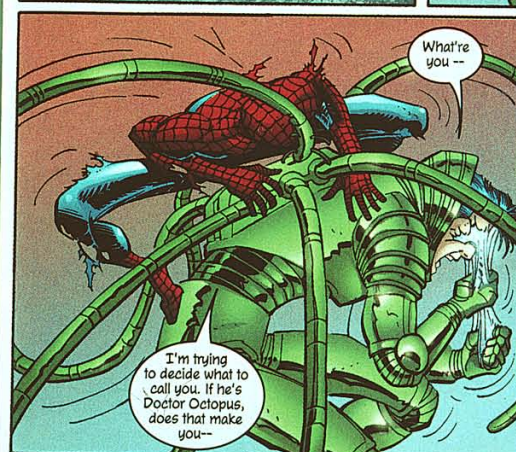


Got to keep moving... if I get close I risk getting snared... those arms can rip me in two if they get a good grip.



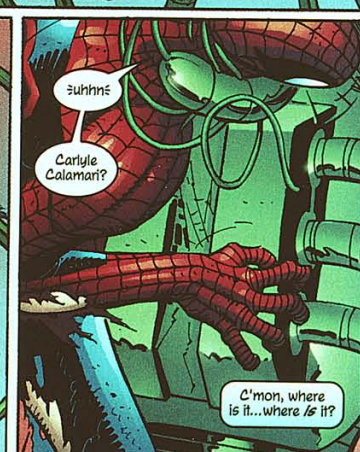
Just got to hold on and try to find it.

And pray.



What're you --

I'm trying to decide what to call you. If he's Doctor Octopus, does that make you--



Uh-huh.

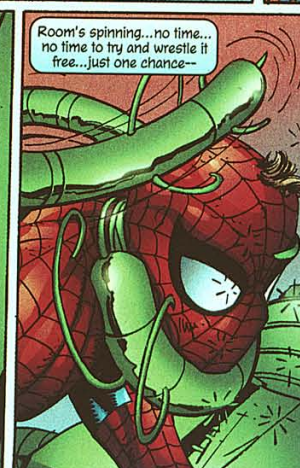
Carlyle Calamari?

C'mon, where is it... where is it?

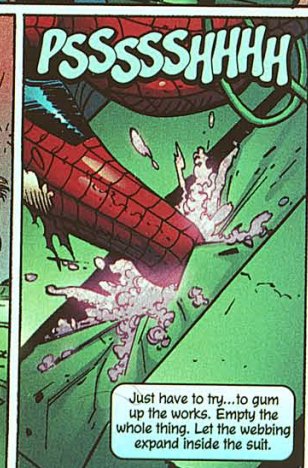


...where...

GOT IT!

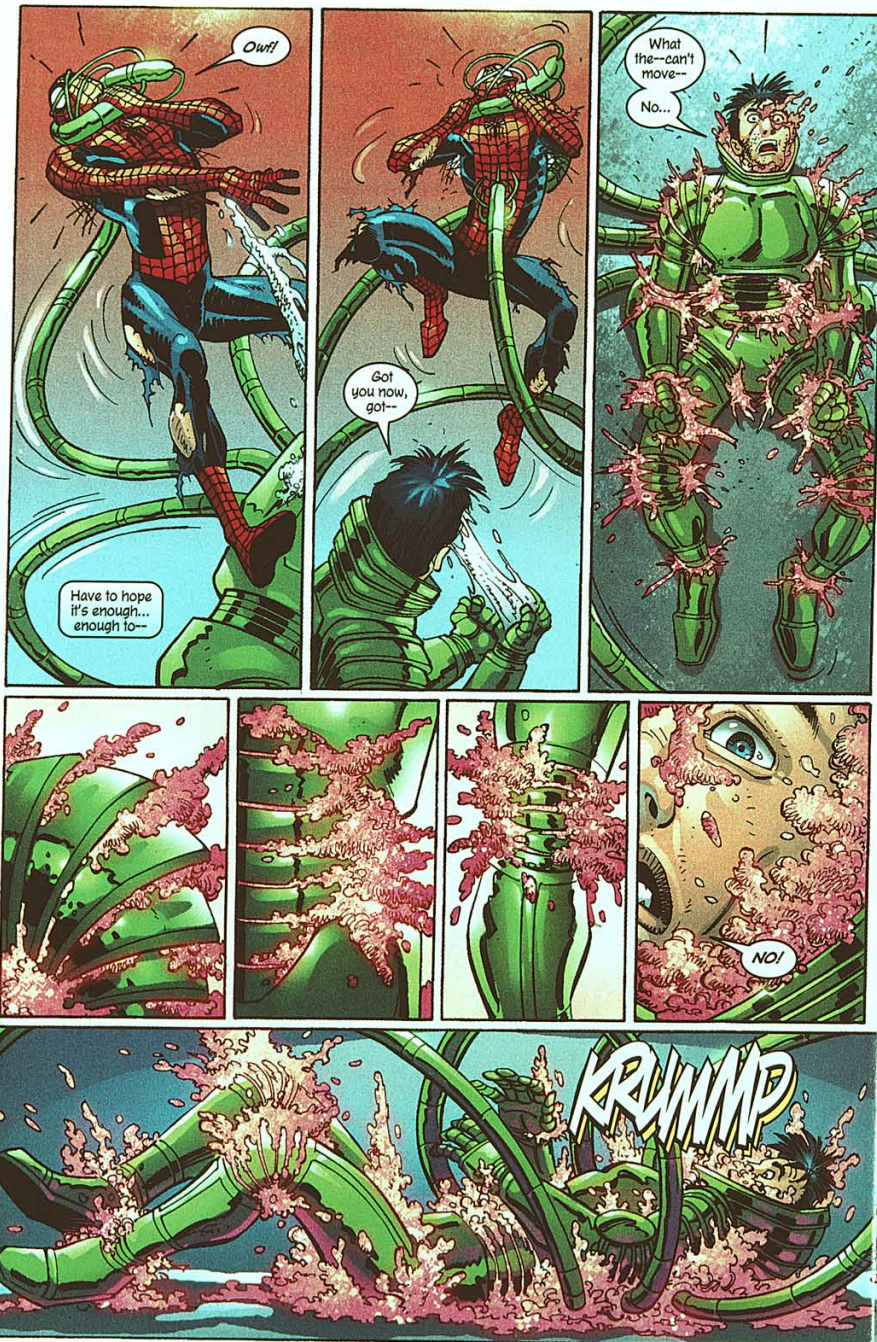


Room's spinning... no time... no time to try and wrestle it free... just one chance--



PSSSSSHHHH

Just have to try... to gum up the works. Empty the whole thing. Let the webbing expand inside the suit.



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Will Bill Jemas Fall Into A Dunk Tank?

Will Peter David Get The Last Laugh?

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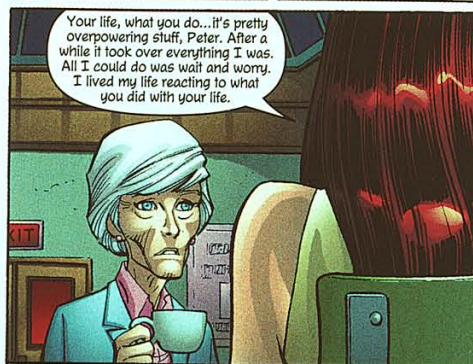


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You've been awfully quiet, Aunt May.

Have I? Yes, I suppose I have been. I was just thinking--

You just want the rest of my chocolate cake, don't you?

Just the parts with the frosting.

END

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